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GEOGRAPHICAL LITERATURE AND MAPS

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BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

AMERICA

Annual Report of the Topographical Surveys Branch, Dept. of the Interior, 1909-1910. v and 162 pp., 19 illustrations and, in separate pocket, 10 maps and 8 profiles. Ottawa, 1911.

This *Report* of the Canadian government bureau corresponding to our General Land Office, which covers the year ended March 31st, 1910, contains the usual summary of the year's work by the Surveyor General (pp. 1-19) and extracts from the individual reports of the Dominion Land Surveyors. Beginning with this volume the description of the townships subdivided during the year will be omitted, as they are of little general interest. They will be printed separately for land seekers and intending settlers. The individual reports include:

Measurement of Kootenay Base Line by P. A. Carson (pp. 53-70). This base line, over five miles long, measured with an invar apparatus, was laid out in the Columbia Valley, about twenty-five miles S.E. of Golden on the Canadian Pacific Ry. It controls the complete network of the triangulation survey in the Railway Belt of British Columbia, from the summit of the main range of the Rocky Mountains westward to the Coast Range.

A. H. Hawkins (*Report*, pp. 84-91) throws much new light on the country at the head of the Smoky and Simonette Rivers along the eastern flank of the Rockies in 54° N. and suggests the reservation of this tract as a national park and game reserve.

J. N. Wallace's survey (pp. 148-154) of a part of the Fourth Meridian (110° W.) led to the delineation of a lake not hitherto shown on any map, Primrose Lake, in 54½° N., extending forty miles in a S.W.-N.E. direction.

The information in the *Reports* of the Topographical Surveys Branch is in the nature of raw material and requires correlating to become of general value. This is a task which amply repays any tediousness it may involve because of the wealth of new data the reports contain as to the topographic features and natural resources of large tracts of territory which, in many cases, are practically unexplored.

W. L. G. J.

A Descriptive Sketch of the Geology, and Economic Minerals of Canada. By G. A. Young. With an Introduction by R. W. Brock. Geological Survey of Canada, Pub. No. 1085. 151 pp., 82 illustrations, 2 maps. Ottawa, 1909.

Synthetic works are fundamental because they give a general survey of their field, correlate its facts and thereby present them in their true perspective. It is highly encouraging that the official survey organizations, both national and

state, or provincial, of Canada, the United States and Mexico, include among their publications works of a general character, for the trained investigators in the field, although growing in number, are still too few to make adequate use of the quantity of admirable material of a detailed nature which the various surveys are producing. Synthetic works are, therefore, always welcome. Such a work is the one under discussion.

Although written with a view to supplying the general information contained in such outlines as Dawson's sketch of the physical geography of Canada in the *Handbook of Canada*, prepared at the time of the Toronto meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science or the earlier *Physical Geography of Canada* by Selwyn and Dawson, both of which are now out of print and not always readily accessible, it does not pretend to supplant them, nor is its scope quite the same.

In the introduction R. W. Brock, the Director of the Survey, not unreasonably predicts a promising future for the mining industries of Canada, arguing by the analogy of conditions in the better known, although still far from thoroughly explored, southern parts of the geological provinces of the Dominion, with those in their practically unexplored northern portions.

The main part of the work, by G. A. Young, is divided according to the natural regions of Canada. Of each region a general characterization is first given, followed by its geologic history and a description of its economic minerals. A chapter on the Glacial Period in Canada forms the conclusion.

As the natural region is the unit of geographic investigation a short summary of the divisions used in the work, which, although not original, constitute its principal claim to geographic value, may not be out of place.

The natural divisions established, which are not necessarily included in their entirety within the domain of the Dominion, are: (1) The Appalachian Region, (2) the St. Lawrence Lowlands, (3) The Laurentian Plateau Region, (4) the Arctic Archipelago, (5) the Interior Continental Plain, (6) the Cordilleran Region.

The western boundary of Canada's portion of the Appalachian region is the St. Lawrence Valley up to Quebec and thence the St. Lawrence-Champlain fault extending S.W. to the foot of Lake Champlain.

The Canadian share of the St. Lawrence Lowlands, bounded on the north by the southern edge of the Laurentian Plateau, is divided into three subdivisions by the low spur of the Laurentian Plateau which crosses the St. Lawrence and forms the Thousand Islands, and by the Niagara Escarpment, which enters Canada at the Niagara Peninsula and extends thence northwest through the Indian Peninsula, separating Lake Huron and Georgian Bay, and is continued in the Manitoulin Islands.

The Laurentian Plateau is Suess's "Canadian Shield," the U-shaped nucleus surrounding Hudson Bay and bounded on its outer convex side by the great chain of lakes from Great Bear to Huron and by the St. Lawrence depression.

The Arctic Archipelago defines itself. Its eastern members are a continuation of the eastern rim of the Pre-Cambrian formations of the Laurentian Plateau, its western members are mainly Paleozoic.

The Interior Continental Plain is included between the Laurentian Plateau and the Cordilleran Region. Its subdivisions are mainly vegetational: a southern, or prairie, and a northern, or wooded section, merging in about 54° N. It terminates to the north at Great Bear Lake beyond which the tundra extends.

Its southern prairie portion is divided into three levels by two lines of escarpment trending N.W.-S.E., the Manitoba Escarpment and the Missouri Coteau.

Canada's portion of the bi-continental highland, the Cordilleran Region, is subdivided into three longitudinal divisions, two mountain systems on its borders enclosing an irregular plateau region. The eastern mountain system includes the Rocky Mountains and, N. of the Liard River, the Mackenzie Mountains; the western system, the Coast Range. The central plateau region is separated transversely by a broken, elevated belt of land dividing the Yukon and Liard River systems. The two portions of the plateau thus isolated are known as the Interior Plateau of British Columbia, in the south, and the Yukon Plateau, in the north.

For further details the reader must be referred to the work itself. The numerous illustrations are well chosen, being typical of the regions they represent. The two valuable maps, one of the geology and one of the distribution of the mineral deposits, were listed in the May *Bulletin* (p. 390). W. L. G. J.

The Buccaneers in the West Indies in the XVIIth Century.

By C. H. Haring. viii and 298 pp., bibliography, index, 10 maps and illustrations. E. P. Dutton & Company, New York, 1910. \$3.50.

Although the annual fair formerly held at Porto Bello on the Isthmus of Panama was open at most for forty days and sometimes for only ten or twelve, the volume of business transacted was estimated at the beginning of the eighteenth century to amount to \$200,000,000. Let us consider this fact in connection with the circumstance that Morgan had proved that neither Porto Bello nor Panama could withstand the buccaneers. Between 1655 and 1671 alone the corsairs sacked eighteen cities (Porto Bello once, Panama once, other cities repeatedly) and plundered and destroyed about forty Spanish-American villages and towns. Mr. Haring quotes an estimate made in 1685 to the effect that the losses of the Spaniards at the hands of the buccaneers "since the accession of Charles II" amounted to 60,000,000 crowns, and those figures did not include the loss of more than 250 merchant ships and frigates. Again, in 1697 Cartagena was captured by a force which was partly composed of buccaneers, the plunder in this case being valued at \$100,000,000. Evidently the field for the exercise of the talents of those freebooters who chose the Spanish Main as the scene of their exploits was richer and wider than ever at the close of the seventeenth century. Why, then, does their history end with the raid on Cartagena?

Mr. Haring answers that Spain's American possessions were at that time actually much more profitable to the other European nations than to the Spaniards themselves; that it was the English, the French, and the Dutch traders who carried their merchandise to Spanish ports and freighted the Spanish-American fleets, and who appropriated the greater part of the gold, silver, and precious stuffs which the Spanish fleets brought back from Porto Bello and Vera Cruz. Therefore the capture of a Spanish galleon or the destruction of a Spanish-American town came to be regarded as a blow directed less at the Spaniards than at the foreign merchants who were interested in the trade between Spain and her colonies. Naturally the English and French governments abandoned the old policy of connivance and encouragement, adopting instead severe measures for the suppression of buccaneering, "because they came to